

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Alan "Turkey" Love, 67, beach boy

*"Ah, you get the knowledge of the waves. I used to be able to spot a wave 1,000 yards out away from me. See it swell."*

Love, Hawaiian-Caucasian, was born in 1919 in Honolulu. He is the youngest of four children of Eugene and Annie Love. He has lived in and around Waikīkī since 1927.

Love attended Maryknoll, Waikīkī Elementary, Washington Intermediate, and graduated in 1938 from Roosevelt High School.

An accomplished swimmer, surfer and canoeman, Love began his career as a beach boy on Waikīkī Beach in 1938. During World War II he worked on the Honolulu shipping docks and then served three years in the army. After the war, he was back on the beach. Love was then head beach boy for the Kaiser (and later Hilton) Hawaiian Village from 1956 to 1973. For the past thirteen years he has worked for the Waikikian Hotel.

Love has belonged to several ocean-oriented clubs such as Hui Nalu, Outrigger Canoe Club, Hawai'i Yacht Club, and Elks Club, of which he is still a member. One of Waikīkī's most experienced beach boys, he continues to work the beach.

Tape No. 13-84-1-86

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Alan "Turkey" Love (AL)

May 14, 1986

Waikīkī, O'ahu

BY: 'Iwalani Hodges (IH)

IH: This is an interview with Alan "Turkey" Love at his beach rental stand at the Hilton Lagoon, Waikīkī, O'ahu, on May 14, 1986. The interviewer is 'Iwalani Hodges.

Okay. Let's start out by just saying a little bit about your parents, who your father was?

AL: My father came over to Honolulu way back in 1908. He was in the service. And he never went home again. He stayed right here. Married my mother in 1909. Had the first baby in 1910. I was the last baby, 1919.

IH: And how many brothers and sisters?

AL: In between that lived?

IH: Mm hmm [Yes].

AL: Three boys and one girl. Two girls died. One of lockjaw. You don't know what that is?

IH: Now days they don't have that.

AL: No, you don't have it now days. She stepped on a nail and got an infection, which you don't get now. Lockjaw.

IH: How old was she?

AL: Eight years old. Now, you'd get those shots. There's no such thing as that anymore. In the modern world, anyway. I don't know about Africa or what.

IH: And what was your father's name?

AL: Eugene. Gene Love.

IH: Eugene Love. And what did he do when he decided to . . .

AL: The navy.

IH: He stayed with the navy?

AL: No, at the navy harbor.

IH: Pearl Harbor?

AL: Yeah. Yeah, he stayed there till he died. Oh, he died way back in 1933. I was just a young kid.

IH: What was your mother's maiden name?

AL: Annie Mossman.

IH: Did she work?

AL: No.

IH: Okay. So when you were born, then where did you folks live?

AL: Pi'ikoi Street. Pi'ikoi and King.

IH: Do you remember that place at all?

AL: Oh, yeah. Across the street was a ranch. Yeah, it was in between the (McKinley High) School and that (Pi'ikoi) Street. Right in between was a ranch over there. The Clark Ranch was about a hundred acres. Cows in there . . .

IH: Oh, that's big.

AL: Yeah.

IH: Cows, too?

AL: Yeah. Cows, cattle. Yeah. From King Street all the way down to Kapi'olani. The Clark Ranch.

IH: So, is that all they raised, was cattle?

AL: Cattle, yeah. Yeah, back in the old days. Then we moved to Punahou and King, on King Street at that school over there.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: The school, Washington Junior High School.

IH: Oh, that's where you lived?

AL: Yeah. Before, now. It used to be called the J.A. Cummings Junior High School when I used to live there. You didn't know that, eh?

IH: Mm mm [No].

AL: J.A. Cummings. Then we moved to Waikīkī in 1928.

IH: And where did you live in Waikīkī?

AL: Kūhiō Avenue.

IH: Oh, on Kūhiō?

AL: Ka'iulani and Kūhiō [Avenues]. Right there, we stayed there till 1941 when the war started.

IH: You folks never lived on Koa [Avenue]?

AL: We lived on Koa for about a year, then we moved.

IH: When you lived on Koa, were there very many other houses around?

AL: Oh, all houses.

IH: Oh, it was already developed?

AL: Everything was houses. Now, what? Slowly, all the homes are gone, gone, gone.

IH: Yeah. Do you remember any of the neighbors from when you were living on Koa? Any of the neighbors around there?

AL: Ah, no. No, I forget their names.

IH: What about on Kūhiō?

AL: Kūhiō, in back of our house was the Olmos family. They're still around. Brash--you know Brash? May [Olmos] Brash? She was just a little girl. They lived on Prince Edward [Street], which is the back street.

IH: But you lived right on Kūhiō?

AL: Kūhiō, between Ka'iulani and Uluniu. That's all changed, eh? All buildings there.

IH: At that time, was Kūhiō [Avenue] already connected with Hamohamo [Road]? Was that opened up all the way?

AL: All the way. Small road. Oh, no. Oh, no, no, no. No, Kūhiō stopped at 'Ōhūa [Avenue]. And there was a little dirt road that you can either go by car or you walk through it, naturally, between 'Ōhūa and Paoakalani [Avenues]. Then there's a road on. Yeah. Say, how do you know that?

IH: (Laughs) From talking to other people. But we're not really sure



of the exact date they opened it all up. Okay. So the [Olmos family] lived behind you.

AL: Oh, yeah. Was pretty big.

IH: She's now a Brash, right?

AL: Yeah, Dr. Brash. You know the Dr. Brash? Yeah, he married an Olmos girl. Jimmy Olmos [is one of the boys].

IH: Did they have a big family?

AL: Yeah, they had. . . . Not too big. Three girls and two boys. There were others around, I knew that. I can't think of their names now.

IH: Okay. So you were about . . .

AL: When I see them, I know.

IH: . . . eight years old, then, when you moved to Waikīkī?

AL: Eight years.

IH: What kinds of things did you used to do as a youth?

AL: Surf.

IH: Surf? So you were always on the beach?

AL: Back in the old days, there was [Moana Pier] there. Kids were not allowed to go past that pier and surf. I had to surf right next to the pier.

IH: Oh. When you say "go past," you mean further out?

AL: Outside. Yeah, the kids in those days. When I was a kid, they respected the older person, not now days. And we stayed. We were afraid we'd get a kick in the rear or a slap in the face.

IH: And who controlled that?

AL: We were told that, that's all.

IH: Was that the beach boys that told you?

AL: Yeah. And you respected the older person. You don't ask why. (Chuckles)

IH: Who were some of the older beach boys on the beach when you first started going down?

AL: Oh, "Tough Bill," Peter Makia, John D. Kaupiko . . .

IH: "Tough Bill," is that Keaweamahi?

AL: Keaweamahi, yeah. They used to own this land over here.

IH: Oh, by Hobron Lane?

AL: Hobron Lane. You know that. How do you know?

IH: You told me that. Yeah, you told me that.

AL: It was a tax deal. They didn't pay their taxes. Somebody paid the taxes, "stole" the land. Magoon family.

IH: Did they have a pretty big property over there?

AL: Oh, yeah. Plenty. I used to go around there when I was a kid. Plenty property. As big as this property here. Sure. In fact, bigger than this one.

IH: Bigger than this [Waikikian] Hotel? You mean . . .

AL: Hotel land.

IH: . . . the whole, all of the hotel?

AL: Yeah.

IH: Wow, that's pretty big. That's about two blocks or something, eh? One whole block they owned?

AL: Two or three acres, at least. Three, four acres. Yeah.

IH: Yeah, that's pretty big.

AL: Back in--up to 1935, if you didn't pay your land tax, anybody can go pay the tax and that's theirs.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: . . . (They lost) their land because of that law. Plenty Hawaiians lost it. My Uncle Joe, he lost his land, too. He used to have the land on the corner of Lemon Road and. . . . Can't think of the name of the street. Anyway, he had an acre there.

IH: Who is that?

AL: Bishaw was his last name.

IH: Oh, Joe Bishaw? Oh, that's your uncle?

AL: Joe Bishaw. Yeah. Yeah, he didn't pay the tax. Guy went Downtown, a tax man. Land tax man, knew the property. He paid the tax. That's it. That's the law. (Chuckles) Terrible, eh?

IH: Yeah, it did happen a lot.

AL: And if you think about it, there're lot of Hawaiians that lost their land. That's only two. There's a hundred other more, a thousand more that lost their land. Terrible, eh, when you think of it.

IH: Well, I guess that's why they changed the law, eh?

AL: Yeah. Now it goes to the state. Then the state sells it to anybody, not the guys at the tax office. They were the only ones that knew of it. And they kept quiet about it, too. "My friend, we got here some land. You want it?" (Chuckles) Terrible, eh, when you think back.

IH: Okay. Who were some of the other boys? I think you started telling me. Some of the old-time beach boys.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: (AL shows a 1932 group photo of beach boys in front of the Moana Hotel.) Bill Kahanamoku, [John] "Squeeze" Kamana, Wilbur Craw, "Ah Tuck," Louis Kahanamoku, Beckley, Johnny Ernstberg, Bill Hollinger, (John Cline) "Scooch" Mann, "Tough Bill" [Keaweamahi], Harry Field, Sargent Kahanamoku, Joe Akana, Lishman, Guerrero, [James] Whittle, Roy Craw, John Monte, [Louis] "Sally" Hale, Gay Harris . . .

(Sound of helicopter in background.)

AL: Can't think of this guy's name. Lei Whittle, Paoa, Francis Wai, [Kepoikai] "Splash" Lyons, Kunte Cotrell, Melvin Paoa, Billy Murtans . . .

(Sound of helicopter in background.)

AL: I can't think of these guys' names. Wait. You see. (AL shows a 1937 photo.) This is a luau back in the old days. The Bray family was the only ones that gave this kind of luaus over here.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: Kalihi.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: (AL refers to the 1937 photo.) This is as I was getting older. That's me over here. "Kalākaua."

IH: "Kalākaua," that's (Simeon) Aylett?

AL: Aylett, yeah. We all grew up together. Another bunch of beach boys.

- IH: So you folks used to attend these luaus up in Kalihi?
- AL: Yeah. Every now and then, we did. This bunch of . . .
- IH: (AL shows a 1946 photo.) This is another picture? Is this down in Waikīkī, also?
- AL: Yeah. Waikīkī. That's where the Surfrider Hotel is now. See, in the background, that's Moana Hotel. And between the Moana Hotel and the Outrigger Club, which is over here [i.e., 'Ewa of the Moana Hotel], was the Wee Golf Course. You see?
- IH: Mm hmm [Yes], mm hmm. That's a miniature golf?
- AL: Yeah. Yeah, there was an eighteen-hole deal. (AL refers again to the 1932 photo.) This is way back in about 1932 or 1930. You see? And now, this is--the golf course is gone now, it's a lot. Now you see, this is the Outrigger Club. In other words, this is like this: the Moana Hotel, the Outrigger parking lot.
- IH: The parking lot was right on Kalākaua?
- AL: No. Between the Outrigger Club, Moana Hotel, which is now the Surfrider Hotel.
- IH: Oh, that was the parking lot?
- AL: No, no. This is on the ocean side.
- IH: Oh, on the ocean side?
- AL: This is now the Outrigger Beach Hotel. And next to the Outrigger Beach Hotel is the Surfrider Hotel, then the Moana, right? This is where that hotel is now. This is on the beach. This is every--Christmas day. We all used to get down there and have drinks. I think all these guys are just about gone. This guy, "Laughing John," his name . . .
- IH: That's a pretty big gang. Did all of these people live in Waikīkī?
- AL: They lived all over. They all came down the beach. Hung around, eh?
- IH: So other people than Waikīkī residents used to hang around Waikīkī Beach?
- AL: Oh, yeah. All came around. They didn't drink much in those days.
- IH: You know, in this one picture of you with all the beach boys, you look like the youngest one here.
- AL: Yeah, I was just young. I was just a kid.

IH: So how did you get to be with all these older guys?

AL: You surf, you hang around with 'em.

IH: Weren't there any younger kids also surfing?

AL: Yeah, like this one here, Francis Wai, I was showing you there. See him over there?

IH: Oh, yeah, he's young, too.

AL: Yeah, and these two young guys here. Let's see, any more young

. . .

IH: There's about . . .

AL: Another young kid over here.

IH: There's about thirty guys in the picture, eh?

AL: Yeah.

IH: Were these all considered authorized beach boys?

AL: Ah, you didn't have. . . . They were actually, 90 percent of these fellas didn't work on the beach. When they got through working Downtown, you see, they hung around the beach. Or on the weekends, they hung around in that area. They surfed a lot and everything. Or they just hung around. But your true beach boys that made the money off of the beach in those days was. . . . (AL points to the beach boys.) He was a lifeguard.

IH: John Ernstberg?

AL: Yeah. This is the guy that lost all his land over here.

IH: "Tough Bill" Keaweamahi?

AL: Yeah. He was a lifeguard, too. Joe Akana, now, he worked on the beach. "Sally" Hale worked on the beach, too, and made--that's the living.

IH: What is his name, now?

AL: "Sally" Hale?

IH: Oh, "Sally" Hale. That's "Sally" Hale? Isn't he the one that started the Outrigger Club or was captain for the Outrigger Club?

AL: Captain for the Waikīkī Beach Patrol, that time.

IH: Oh, Waikīkī Beach Patrol.



AL: That was the name at the Outrigger Club, but the outfit was called "Waikīkī Beach Patrol."

IH: Oh, I see.

AL: Some of these fellas just hung around. Gay Harris. So, actually, beach boys, out of this group, there are only about four of 'em that really made their money off of the beach. The rest just stopped around because they had other jobs. (AL refers to the 1946 photo.) Like all of these. At that time I was a beach boy, this fella was a beach boy.

IH: What is his name?

AL: Hiram Anahu. "Laughing John," he was a beach boy. (William) "Chick" Daniels was. Peter Makia was a lifeguard. He was a lifeguard, too.

IH: So this picture you're looking at now is about 1938?

AL: This one here? Just after World War II.

IH: Oh, after the war?

AL: Just after the war. This one here, 1946. See, (AL refers to the Bray's luau photo) that's '37. There's a lot of other beach boys which were really hanging around like (Sam) "Colgate," "Hawk Sha" (Paia), "Panama"--yeah, I couldn't find him in there. "Panama Dave" (Baptiste). (Harry) "Curly" Cornwell. Sam Kahanamoku.

IH: Now, these are the guys who actually made their living on the beach?

AL: Their living on the beach, yeah. I made mine starting 1938. That's when I started to make my living on the beach, after I got through high school.

IH: And what kinds of things did you do as a beach boy?

AL: Instruct surfing, canoe captain. I did that, yeah.

IH: I've heard from other beach boys that you were considered the best steersman in Waikīkī.

AL: I tried.

IH: (Laughs) You must have been pretty good.

AL: Now, you go by how many times you swamp a year. Maybe I swamp once every three years.

IH: Wow, no wonder you gained that title.

AL: Ah, you get the knowledge of waves. I used to be able to spot a wave 1,000 yards out away from me. See it swell.

IH: And that just comes from years of experience, I guess, huh?

AL: Yeah, it just comes, that's all. I don't know. It came, I could see it. And as it builds and builds and build.

IH: Did you have canoe clubs at that time? Were there canoe clubs racing at that time?

AL: Yeah. There were only . . .

IH: Did you belong to any?

AL: Oh, yeah. I used to race. Canoe racing, I raced that for twenty years. Was captain the whole time.

IH: What team was that you belonged to?

AL: Hui Nalu at the start. Then I shifted to the Outrigger Club.

IH: And where did you folks practice?

AL: We only did it outside here [i.e., Waikīkī]. We did it two times a year, that's all. June 11th, July 4th, that's all.

IH: Oh, you didn't have regular weekly races like they do now?

AL: No. They race every week now, every day. No, it was held. . . . We had some outrigger races in the Ala Wai [Canal], too. Those surfboard races, too.

IH: Surfboard races?

AL: Yeah. Surfboards, race.

IH: How did you race surfboards?

AL: A hundred yards with boards. With the old-style boards, though, not this kind.

IH: And you just---you mean, paddling?

AL: Paddle races. I got a gold medal, one at home. Still got that gold medal. Now days it's not gold anymore. It's gold outside, but not the inside.

IH: Mm hmm, and yours is pure gold?

AL: Pure gold. Boys under thirteen.

IH: Canoe racing or. . . .



AL: Paddles.

IH: Oh, surfing? Surfboard racing.

AL: Surfboard paddling, yeah. I still got it at home. Every now and then, I look at it. Canoe racing, I started--yeah, when I was fourteen years old, I used to race. The boys under sixteen. We used to go to the outside island and race. The Kona Coast and race. First time I ever got drunk was after I won a race over there. I drank a glass of wine. Threw up all over the place, passed out. Just one glass of wine.

IH: (Laughs) Oh, no. (Laughs)

AL: Somehow, someone upstairs was (chuckles) telling me not to drink. Because up to I was about twenty-five years old, I used to throw up, if I had a lot to drink. And I mean, bad throw up. Not this kind throw up. This kind throw up. All over me. Embarrassing. Somebody up there was telling me, "You shouldn't drink, boy." (Chuckles) Yeah.

IH: So you said you folks race . . .

AL: I never used to drink.

IH: . . . on only two days, June 11th and July 4th?

AL: Well, yeah. That was back in the old days.

IH: Why just those two days? I mean, what was special about those days?

AL: Well, June 11th, what's that guy? Kamehameha Day. July 4th was MacFarlane Day. MacFarlane was the---he was the first president, the modern-day president. Back in the '30s and '40s, he was the president of the Outrigger Club. And they call it---it's still held. July 4th, every year, it's still held. Wait, I'll show you something. This is an Outrigger deal. It's still held every year. That's the only race that's held at the beach over there anymore.

IH: And they still call it "MacFarlane Day"?

AL: Yeah. Walter MacFarlane.

IH: Do you still belong to the Outrigger Club?

AL: Yeah, I joined it back in 1942. Because everything else in town was shut down. And all my friends at that time were in that club, and I couldn't go in the club. So, the camera I had, brand-new one, I sold the camera. With the money, I joined the club.

IH: (AL shows IH a canoe race schedule for the Outrigger Canoe Club.) Oh, Walter MacFarlane Regatta?

AL: Yeah. I'm very proud of that cup because I'm on that six times. Most than anybody. Sometime, you ever look at that cup, look. Got my name on it six times.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: . . . see a so-called beach boy on the beach with oil on his body, he's not a beach boy.

IH: (Chuckles) The beach boys never did wear oil?

AL: You cannot. You cannot because you go on a surfboard. You can't have oil on there, slippery. You go on the outrigger, you grab a paddle, you can't have oil on these (hands). So if you ever see a so-called beach boy with oil on his body, he's not a beach boy. He's a phoney. You just think about it.

IH: Yeah, makes sense. Okay. What other things did beach boys do besides instruct surfing and . . .

AL: Canoe.

IH: . . . captain the canoe?

AL: Well, not me, but there's a lot of 'em that used to sing on the beach. I couldn't carry a tune. I tried to play the ukulele, I'm no good. I tried the guitar, I'm (chuckles)--forget it. I used to try and sing. "Kalākaua" [Aylett] and I.

IH: Somebody had mentioned that maybe they had given massages on the beach.

AL: Yeah. That's true.

IH: They did that, too?

AL: Yeah, the lomilomi.

IH: Did you used to do that?

AL: No, I never did it. To me, you have to have the hands for that. There was one beach boy that had the hands that I liked. And every time I saw him, there's a bench over there, I'd lie down real quick. "Get my back." And he was the only one. The rest of the guys didn't have the. . . .

IH: And who was that guy?

AL: Phillip Kaaihue. That son-of-a-gun, every time I see him (chuckles) and he walk back, I quickly lie down. (Chuckles) Crazy, yeah? But he had the hands. In fact I miss the guy. He died.

IH: Did you folks do much fishing?

AL: I used to spear fish a lot. Right in front. The beach over there. But I went to Kona one year. The difference between spear fishing in Kona and here . . .

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: The difference between spear fishing in Waikīkī and spear fishing in Kona, the fish in Kona come to you. In Waikīkī, you got to chase the fish. Really, that's the truth. I go into the shallow water up to my neck, put your head down, all the fish you want.

IH: That's in Kona?

AL: That's the difference. Back in the old days. I don't know about now, though. And it spoils you. Then when I come back to Honolulu, forget it.

In Kona there was fish that the royalty only used to eat. That was their fish. It was called kole nuku heu. It's a brown fish about this big (six inches) with the yellow eye. It has to have the yellow eye. That's the royalty fish. Back in the old days, I heard they were the only ones that were allowed to eat it. The kole is brown, all brown, with the brown eye. But the yellow eye is the kole nuku heu and that's all we used to look for. It's the best. The meat was the cotton-like eating. I could see that was the royalty fish. So if you like to spear fish, don't go to Kona. They'll spoil you.

IH: Was there a lot of fishing done out in Waikīkī?

AL: Oh, yeah. In fact, when I was a young guy, that's how we ate. 'Cause no more money. I used to eat a lot of 'opae and poi back in the old days. Put the dried 'opae in a bowl with the hot water. Just shoyu inside and eat it with poi. I ate a lot of that. The rice and gravy.

(Dog barks.)

AL: No meat now. Rice and gravy. Ten cents. No more money. (Chuckles) You had a dime, you're lucky.

IH: What about the surfing spots? Were there names for surfing spots at that time?

AL: Well, see, I only surfed over there, Waikīkī, that's all. Because back in the old days, you didn't have a car. And the boards were so heavy, you only surfed where you lived, that's all. I paddled over here sometimes and surfed over here, but it's a long paddle. Why come all the way over this side when the surf is as good down there? And the boards were so heavy. You stayed where you lived. Now, all the kids have cars. Now the boards are so small and so

light. Go anywhere you want. Not back in the old days, no way.

IH: How heavy were the boards?

AL: Oh, they weighed from fifty pounds, up. You know, when I was a kid, young kid, the redwood boards, I couldn't lift up. And the old-timers, you want to go surf, you take the board out, you carry the board out, and you bring it back in here. You know how I used to? I couldn't lift it, huh? (AL makes diagram in the sand and uses pencil to represent the surfboard.) That's the water, this is the building. Okay, here's the board. We put it down. You grab one end, lift it over here [i.e., pointing toward the water]. Grab the other end, lift it over here. (The process continues until you have reached the water.) That's how I used to do it. (Chuckles)

IH: I guess they were pretty heavy, then.

AL: You saw pictures when I was just a kid. I couldn't lift the damn thing. Redwood boards. Then it came, the balsa boards came in. Balsa redwoods. They were lighter and bigger. Then came the hollow board, which is the hardest board to ride. Then came the Malibu, it was called. That was the first board with a fin in the back.

IH: Oh, the regular boards didn't have fins?

AL: No.

IH: Weren't they hard to ride without fins?

AL: No. Back when I learned, when I first surfed, without the fin. (AL demonstrates.) This is the board. Let's say this is the board. Okay. You're standing like this. When you wanted to turn to the right, you put your foot out and drag your foot in the water [on the right side of the board] to turn to the right. You want to go left, you put this foot over here [in the water on the left side of the board] and turn to the left. Drag it in the water.

IH: Oh. So you use your right foot to drag either side.

AL: Steer. With the fin, all you did was lean. That's the difference. The hollow board, you couldn't do that. You did very little leaning and the board will slowly turn. It was more like riding straight. Once you're in the slide, you stayed in the slide.

IH: Now days they do all kinds of tricks and things. Did you folks do that, also?

AL: No, we couldn't do it. The modern way of surfing and the old-time way of surfing is altogether different. To me, we made it look easy. When you surfed, you stood up. You were the boss of the wave. Now, the gyrations that they go through, who's the boss of the wave? The wave is the boss. And it's much easier, too, with



the bigger boards. Easier to paddle out. Easier to catch the wave. Easier all around. What's hard about surfing? Stand there, I'm the boss. Modern way now, they only ride for a short ways. The old-time way, you rode the wave until it pooped out. Every day I used to. . . . I did this by habit. Caught the wave, came all the way to shore, and stepped off the board. You don't see anybody doing that now. They don't do that. Because one thing, they cannot do it. Because the board is so small, once they lose speed, it sinks. But you rode the bigger board, the wave get smaller, you still going. The wave can be this small and you're still going.

IH: Only a foot . . .

AL: Yeah, you still go. Now days, if it gets that small, the board sinks. Different.

IH: Did they have longer waves, too, in those days?

AL: Oh, yeah.

IH: I think you mentioned that it's changed since they've changed the beach.

AL: Ah, the beaches. The surf is not the same. Waves are breaking all over now, I notice. Break all over. You don't have what I call a wave that starts here and spreads out. It starts here and breaks all over the place. The old-time way, you stayed away from the break as you rode the wave. Now the difference is, you rode the break. Different. Different style of doing it. Because of the board, you got to stay in the break now because that's where the push of the wave is. You go outside of the breaker, the small board sinks. You lose that speed. That's the difference. One thing they don't judge now. To me, the hardest part of surfing is to catch the wave. Do they judge that? They judge you after you've caught the wave. If I was the judge, I watch that guy. If he misses a wave--if he goes for and he don't catch that wave, gets zero point. That's a wave. But that's not how it's done. Different.

IH: They used to have surf contests in the old days, too?

AL: Yeah, I won the first three. Yeah, I won the one '39, '41, '47. The first three that was held in Waikiki. Then it was shifted back in 1952 to Makaha. And I never went. Why? No more car. (Chuckles) And you know something I hate to admit? For all the years I've been on the beach, I never did own a surfboard.

IH: You never owned a surfboard?

AL: Never owned a board.

IH: Why was that?

AL: Never had to. Never thought of it. There's always boards there. Crazy, yeah? Never owned one.

IH: So, the other guys just let you use their boards?

AL: Well, the Outrigger [Canoe Club] had boards, the guys there. The guys which I knew had boards. They let me use it any time I wanted. No, I never, never owned a board. Yeah, '52, the reason why is [no car]--well, that's not the full reason. The other big reason was, back in the old days, there was a summer crowd which you made money and the winter crowd where I made money. And it happened in the winter. December . . .

IH: Oh, the surf contest in Mākaha?

(Fire engine sirens in background.)

AL: The Christmas time. That was the real reason why I didn't. And I was getting older where the medals didn't mean anything much anymore, you know. [Nineteen] fifty-two, I was thirty-three years old. I had gotten to the age where I didn't care.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: Now, if it was held in October or November, I think I would have gone.

IH: December, was that a really good tourist season for you?

AL: Oh, yeah. Your Christmas time. Especially after being broke for three months, no more money.

IH: What did you folks do on those off-seasons?

AL: We made some money, you know, three, four bucks a day. Enough to eat. Lot of times I couldn't get the rent paid. Thirty-five dollars a month, I couldn't pay the rent.

IH: Where were you living that time?

AL: Waikīkī. Koa Avenue. That's when I was living on Koa. Lemon Road and---Lemon and Koa.

IH: In an apartment or a house?

AL: Rooms.

IH: Oh, rooms?

AL: Yeah. Just rooming house.

IH: Did they have a lot of rooming houses at that time?

AL: Where I stayed, sure. You might call it studio. Back in the old days, it was a rooming house.

IH: Did a lot of the beach boys do that? Stayed at rooming houses?

AL: Oh, yeah. I stayed with "Panama [Dave]" for years till. . . . Stayed with him from '46 through '55. Stayed with him. Was my roommate.

IH: You know, if the tourist business was so off-and-on, why did you folks stick with it? Why didn't you go and get other jobs?

AL: I didn't want to go down there, work where I didn't want to. I loved the beach. (Laughs) Well, I was in the army, naturally, I was stuck in that.

IH: Was that during the war?

AL: Prior to the war [World War II] . . .

END OF SIDE ONE

## SIDE TWO

(AL is talking about when he worked for Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.)

IH: Yeah. And did that really happen? Office boy to president?

AL: Lot of things, they have happened.

IH: Oh, you know a lot of companies?

AL: Yeah, sure. Lot of companies. Back in the old days. I don't know about now. Back in the old days, that was the thing. From office boy to president.

IH: And when you worked A&B Construction, were you working . . .

AL: A&B. No, A&B.

IH: Oh, Alexander & Baldwin.

AL: Alexander & Baldwin.

IH: Oh, were you an office boy?

AL: Yeah. I lasted one summer and a half. After work one weekend I went to Maui to watch a football game. Caught the boat over there. And I was supposed to come back Sunday evening on the boat. Before the boat in the afternoon Sunday, I was strolling through town, Wailuku. Had stopped to watch a fight. That's the biggest mistake I made.



IH: What happened?

AL: You know how they make a ring around the fight? Okay, this old Filipino man, his friend was fighting and he wanted to help this friend. You know, how you kind of hold back this way [i.e., the spectators hold out their arms so others cannot pass]? He didn't like that. He stabbed me. I ended up the whole week staying in Maui. A&B didn't like me for that. That was the end of me and A&B. And here, I was just minding my own business. I guess they thought I was a no-good so-and-so, like to fight. Really. That was it. Never was asked back again. (Chuckles) Every time I go to Maui, I think of that. See, for a little while, I didn't know I was stabbed, you know. Felt like a punch in my stomach. Then all of a sudden, I look down, I saw blood. This other guy was right next to me. I said, "Hey, I think I got stabbed." Boy, that guy went for this [Filipino] guy. Grabbed him around the neck. Filipino stabbed him right in the stomach. Ripped open his whole stomach and the guy died. Terrible. That's why, Maui, ever since that happened, I've been at the airport maybe three or four times. Five or six times, I don't know. But ever since then, I've been on Maui twice. I can't blame Maui. But every time, I just don't like the thoughts.

IH: And this was in the late '30s that that happened?

AL: Yeah. Summer of '37. (Chuckles)

IH: So, you were still in high school then?

AL: I had one more year to go. Funny, just because of that stabbing incident, they [A&B] didn't like me anymore. Guess I'm not supposed to be there or standing there.

IH: Well, you also said you worked at a construction company or something as a timekeeper?

AL: World War II, yeah.

IH: Oh, that was during the war?

AL: Nineteen forty-one. I never forget my number, 226.

IH: That's your draft number?

AL: Draft number. It was known that if you don't find a job, the summer was when it was going to happen. You didn't find a con---not a construction job, something to do with the war effort, that you would be going in the army. I ended up, I found a job.

IH: And what were you doing?

AL: The timekeeper.

IH: Oh, that was the timekeeper.

AL: I was there for two and a half years. The company I was with did dry docks 3, 4, and 5. Four days after the construction job was pau, I was in the army. Four days. Somebody at that draft outfit was watching me. They were watching.

(Fire engine sirens and howling dog in background.)

IH: When you were drafted in the army, where were you stationed?

AL: I was lucky in the army. The draft before me, there was 500. The draft I got into, there were only seventy-two of us. We all stayed home. Lucky. The draft after me, there was 900, all front line. Lucky. Just luck.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 13-87-2-86

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Alan "Turkey" Love (AL)

May 15, 1986

Waikīkī, O'ahu

BY: 'Iwalani Hodges (IH)

IH: This is an interview with Alan "Turkey" Love on the beach of the Hilton Lagoon, Waikīkī, O'ahu, on May 15, 1986. The interviewer is 'Iwalani Hodges.

AL: Back in those days was the Myrtle crew, Healani, navy crew. And I used to watch 'em. I used to go down to where they kept the boats down by, say, Pier 5, Pier 6, Pier 7, right over there. There was a row of those. I used to go over there and watch them row on land to train. And I wanted to do that when I grew up. Then when I got grown up, it went to paddling on the canoe. No more. All the rest, pau.

IH: They didn't have rowing at all?

AL: After the '30s, it stopped. They just went out of business.

IH: Is this the same Healani crew that went from rowing into canoeing?

AL: Yeah, that's the same. The Myrtle crew, too. There's a Myrtle crew. The last race I ever saw was at the Ala Wai Canal. They had one last one. That was way back in '31, '32, around there. But I wanted to row. You know, right now, I cannot row a boat. The proper way, you know. Cannot. I've never tried. I tried once, I should say. (Chuckles) And I gave up. Paddle, yeah, but not rowing.

IH: Is it that much different than paddling?

AL: Different. Altogether different. I wanted to when I grew up. Faded out.

IH: Yeah, it's too bad. I know they had their practices in the Honolulu Harbor. Did they have the races . . .

AL: It was all held there. Everything was held there. That was a big event in the old days, go down there. Yeah, Honolulu Harbor. We used to all sit and wait at Pier 2. That's where they started.

They went down to Pier--I don't know--16, 18, around there, and just turn around and came back. That was the end. The start and the end was at Pier 2.

IH: How long a distance is that?

AL: About three-quarter mile, each way. Yeah, roughly. Maybe a half mile. Three-quarter mile, sure.

IH: Did the beach boys participate in that?

AL: No. Not that I know of.

IH: Okay.

AL: The beach boys stayed on the beach. (Chuckles) Well, what do you need?

IH: I wanted to start out today by just asking you a little more about some of the stuff we talked about yesterday. When you lived on Punahou and King [Streets], is that when you started at Maryknoll School?

AL: Maryknoll, third grade. That's when it first opened, that first year it opened. Don't ask me what year it was. Probably 1927 or '28, something like that. First year it opened.

IH: So you went only for third grade?

AL: Third grade.

IH: Do you know why your mom sent you there instead of to a public school?

AL: Catholic.

IH: Oh, you folks were Catholic?

AL: Yeah. That's the only day of the week I wore shoes. Really, go to church.

IH: They didn't require you to wear shoes at Maryknoll?

AL: No, uh uh. Church, had to, though. Had to wear . . .

IH: Did you folks have uniforms in those days?

AL: No, uh uh. Not that I remember, no. Yeah, I guess the girls did. The girls had. Yeah. Back in those days, Ka'ahumanu School was there, too. You know, prior to World War II, to go to high school, there was an English-speaking school. Roosevelt was known as an English-speaking school.

IH: Oh, English-standard school?

AL: Yeah. That's against the law now.

IH: Oh, yeah? Well, what was the requirement to get in there?

AL: You had to speak good English. If you couldn't speak good English, McKinley [High School].

IH: But you attended Roosevelt, didn't you?

AL: Yeah.

IH: Did you have to take an examination to get in there?

AL: No. It's just that when you went to apply, they spoke to you. That's it. Now, it's against the law. (Chuckles) Well, back in those days, the [Honolulu] high schools were St. Louis, Kamehameha, McKinley, Roosevelt. That's all. That's the high schools.

IH: So everyone in town had to go to one of those?

AL: Yeah. Catholic school, you went to St. Louis. But against the law now. You cannot say English-speaking (chuckles) or English-standard.

IH: Did anyone else in Waikīkī, any of your neighbors, go to Roosevelt also?

AL: The Olmos family went there, too. Jimmy Olmos. Say, you know something? This August the 16th, I got a note from my schoolmate to attend a get-together, fifty-year get-together, when Roosevelt in 1936 won the football championship.

IH: And did you play for the team that year?

AL: Yeah. Yeah, way back. Fifty years, terrible, yeah?

(Laughter)

AL: That's true, I got the note. See, half of the guys are gone, you know, when I read the letter of who's alive and who's gone. I didn't know half were. . . .

IH: Is Jimmy Olmos still living?

AL: He's in the Mainland, somewhere in the Mainland. Yeah, Joe Kaulukukui was on the team. Joe Kaulukukui. Jimmy Olmos. Toomey, John. Toomey was his name. I think he's gone. Mel Clark. Axel Xylem. "Dougie" Logan. My brother [Walter Love]. That's going way back. That's enough of that.

IH: Yeah. (Laughs) So, you said you and Jimmy Olmos went to Roosevelt



when you were living in Waikīkī, right?

AL: Yeah.

IH: How did you get to school?

AL: Streetcar. Five cents to get to school. You know how I made my money at that time? I used to clean the bathhouse on the beach. Moana bathhouse.

IH: Isn't that where Hui Nalu [Canoe Club] was located?

AL: Right next door to it. See, can make five cents, ten cents, fifteen cents just to go clean the bathhouse.

IH: Did the hotel pay you to clean?

AL: No, the guy there. The guy who ran it. He supposed to do it, see.

IH: Oh, I see. And who was that?

AL: Richard Lee it was then. Never forget that guy. He's alive still, that guy. Richard Lee. Yeah, every day after school we went surfing. And then, before I went home, I got to go clean the bathhouse. Not I had to, but if (chuckles) I wanted some money. I did that for about three, four years. In fact, in those days, ten cents, that's big money, you know. Now what?

IH: When you moved to Waikīkī in 1928, do you know why your father decided to move there?

AL: I cannot answer that. I don't know why.

IH: You mentioned that Joe Bishaw was related to you.

AL: That's my uncle.

IH: Yeah, how is that . . .

AL: That's my mother's sister's husband.

IH: Oh. Did you have any other relatives in the area?

AL: We had another relative. Her other sister was, Bayne was the last name, B-A-Y-N-E. Bayne.

IH: She also lived in the area?

AL: No, Downtown. Can't think of the name. I know the street, but I can't think of it.

IH: When you moved into Waikīkī, you said the first year you were on Koa [Avenue].

AL: Koa, yeah.

IH: Was that house a new house or an older house?

AL: Old house.

IH: Was an old house?

AL: Oh, yeah. In fact, all the homes over there were old.

IH: See, I was under the impression that that area was sort of new.

AL: No.

IH: No?

AL: Waikīkī back in those days were all old. See, you're studying right now the heart of Waikīkī. It's from Lewers Road--and it still is the heart of Waikīkī--to Uluniu [Avenue]. If you owned a business, say, that's where the money is. That's your place where the money is. Come this way and that way, it goes down, down, down. This area here is called Kālia, not Waikīkī.

IH: But wasn't it considered part of Waikīkī before?

AL: Well, it's just like Honolulu. This section is called that, Kālia.

IH: So the area between Lewers and Uluniu . . .

AL: Back in the old days, from Uluniu going the other way [towards Diamond Head], that section, the nickname for that section was "Stonewall." Yeah. There's a big stone wall over there. That's a nickname. Not Waikīkī. As I say, Waikīkī is from Lewers Road to Uluniu. That's what you call Waikīkī. That's the heart of it. This way was called something else. The other way was called something else. I thought you knew that.

IH: Well, I guess we considered all of this Waikīkī, but I guess there's different districts in there. What about 'Āinahau? Where was that located?

AL: Oh, that was in back. See, Ka'iulani Road is in back there towards the Ala Wai [Canal]. When I was a kid, too, you know the Ala Wai, the golf course? The fairgrounds was in there. Yeah. There used to be a bridge going from the Paoakalani Street. There was a bridge over the Ala Wai into that park.

IH: Was that just a walking bridge?

AL: Walking bridge, yeah. Also right up at this corner here, the corner of Kālia [Road] and Ala Moana [Boulevard], used to be another one there.



IH: Oh, was there a stream going through there?

AL: No, the fairgrounds [i.e., Aloha Park], I'm telling you.

IH: Oh, the fairgrounds?

AL: You know, the [ferris] wheels. You know, the shows. And then, right across the street over there used to have a big one. That's where E.K. Fernandez started. Over there. Didn't you know that?

IH: So, did they have the two fairgrounds running at the same time?

AL: Yeah. One here [in Kālia, Aloha Park] and one down there [on the site of the present Ala Wai Golf Course, Territorial Fairgrounds]. This one [i.e., Aloha Park] was the popular one, though. That's when I was a small kid. Those things I remember.

IH: Okay. Then when you moved down to Kūhiō [Avenue], was about 1929, then.

AL: No. We stayed--when I start to think of it now--stayed on Koa till about 1933. Then we moved over. Yeah, that's when we moved. Don't ask me why, now, I don't know. I was just a young kid.

IH: Was that another house?

AL: Another house, yeah.

IH: Was that also an old house?

AL: Old house, yeah.

IH: So, from Kūhiō to Ala Wai, what was it like in there? That 'Āinahau area?

AL: Just some old homes, that's all.

IH: Oh, there were old homes in there?

AL: You know where the Ka'iulani [Avenue] goes up? From the left side, there was Moana [cottages], the bungalows, they called it.

IH: Oh, is that the employee cottages?

AL: No. (AL draws diagram in the sand.) We'll say this is Kalākaua [Avenue]. The Ka'iulani went this way. Okay. The Moana bungalows were over here. In the back of it was all open land. That's where the employees lived. You walk right down the road here. The pumphouse was over here and everything. See, back in the old days, the Moana and the Royal Hawaiian Hotel had their own water. Their pumphouse. This is the pumphouse. Yeah, you ever go speak to some old-timers at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, they made their own ice and everything. It's still there. Yeah. The water, too. The water, they had their own water.

IH: What is still there?

AL: I think they still have their own water. You ever look--sometime you go to that hotel over there, the Princess Hotel.

IH: Princess Ka'iulani?

AL: Yeah. Sometimes, you ever walk in there to where the pool is? You go ask over there, "What's all this over here. What's this big place over here?" That's a pumphouse.

IH: Oh. So that's where it was located? Right there where the pool is now?

AL: No, it was over here.

IH: Oh, was more 'Ewa then.

AL: And your employees all lived over in back here. Oh, this is all empty. This is Seaside [Avenue], okay? Dirt road. But all this whole area was empty. The Bishop Estate owned all of that. But this pumphouse, I'll bet it's still operating. If you ever go over there, you go look and you ask.

IH: Okay. This area that was just 'Ewa and just Ala Wai of that employee cottages, was that before a swamp that was filled in when they dredged the Ala Wai? Do you know about that?

AL: Ah, no. Was way before my time. I know this area [Kālia] was all swamp.

IH: I'm wondering about how far down the swamp area went.

AL: I think Lewers Road. Lewers Road and this way. See, back in the old days, that's where Waikīkī was. From, say, Lewers to Uluniu, it's the heart of Waikīkī. This way was nothing much.

IH: Okay. When you first moved down to Waikīkī, what stores do you remember in that area?

AL: [N.] Aoki Store.

IH: That was a grocery store?

AL: Grocery store everybody used to go to. It was across the street from the church over there. St. Augustine's Church. Was right on the corner. That was the store that everybody went to. Prior to World War II, if you wanted to buy clothes or you want to buy shoes or anything, you had to go Downtown Honolulu. There was no stores for clothes and everything. They had some stores at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. But we never would go in there because that's for the rich people.

IH: Oh, yeah?

AL: Oh, yeah. In fact, back in those days, too, the boys, sailor moku pants. Cheapest thing you can buy. Khaki pants was a little more expensive. What was the expensive one? The gabardine pants, that cost ten dollars. You can't afford that. That's how this guy got his nickname, "Gabby" [Pahinui]? Okay, back in the old days, he couldn't afford it. He's from a family without any money, hardly. And he used to say, "Ah, gabardine. His shirt, gabardine. His hair was gabardine." (Chuckles) That's how he got his nickname.

IH: Oh, that's how he got his nickname?

AL: Yeah.

IH: Oh, interesting.

AL: Yeah, everything he had on was gabardine. He couldn't afford gabardine.

(Laughs)

AL: Yeah, everything. Sailor moku in those days. The khaki was next. You little rich and you get that. If you rich, you got the other one [gabardine].

IH: Didn't some of the beach boys have pretty nice clothes?

AL: Oh, when I was a kid, all of 'em wore hats. And pheasant leis or flower leis in their hats, stuff like that. Coat and tie, too. Everything. When I grew up, my age was no hat. Once in a while, a tie. But always a coat. Whenever you went out, coat. That's all lost now. Yeah, we always had coats.

IH: Was that a requirement to go into the club . . .

AL: No, it's just the way everybody dressed. Like when I was growing up, too, when I had hair, go to the barber every week. Not now. Lucky these guys go every six months.

(Laughter)

AL: Yeah, that was the style in those days.

(AL and IH greet someone.)

AL: But the time before my time, there was hats and ties and suits. Always.

IH: What about on the beach? What did you wear?

AL: Oh, well, just the regular khaki. If you had a little extra money, well, the other type. But they were well dressed back in those

days. Always. They went all out to get their clothes. Not now days.

IH: What was located across the street from Aoki Store on the beach side of Kalakaua?

AL: Stone wall. Road, stone wall, ocean.

IH: Oh, there weren't any buildings on that side?

AL: Oh, no. That's the ocean.

IH: What about little bit more 'Ewa of that? Was there anything there?

AL: Church and homes coming this way.

IH: No, I mean, on the beach side. You know where Kūhiō's home was?

AL: Oh, that's this way.

IH: Yeah, this side.

AL: (On the Diamond Head side was Dean's-By-the-Sea, restaurant and rooming house.) Yeah, there was that [Kūhiō's] home there. And then, coming this way next to that, Waikīkī Tavern, the Waikīkī Inn.

IH: And what was that, exactly?

AL: Coming this way, that was an apartment house. And then, the Waikīkī Tavern coming this way. That was a famous place.

IH: Yeah. Was that sort of a hangout for the beach boys?

AL: Oh, yeah. At night, yeah. When I was a kid, that's where we go hang out in the evening. I don't know what for, just sitting around, talking. I never used to smoke in those days. And across that was the Benson Smith drugstore and the Canlis [Restaurant] opened over there, too, across from the [Waikīkī] Tavern.

IH: Oh, that's the first location of the Canlis?

AL: Canlis, yeah.

IH: And when was that? Do you remember?

AL: It's just (after) World War II. The Biltmore [Hotel]. Anyway, it was before the Biltmore was built.

IH: But in that same location?

AL: Yeah. Then it went when the Biltmore was built [in 1955]. Then it moved down here.

- IH: When you first moved into Waikīkī, were there any streams left coming through there?
- AL: There was a stream. . . . (AL draws a diagram.) This is the Ala Wai, okay? Where it ended, the Kapahulu Road. Before there was a dirt road over there, there was a stream that ended up . . .
- IH: And ran right along . . .
- AL: . . . and right to the ocean.
- IH: . . . the side of Kapahulu [Avenue]?
- AL: Yeah. You ever looked at that wall over there [jutting into the ocean from Kapahulu Avenue]. You know the wall where those guys stroll out to--everybody strolls out to? That big wall? That's where the stream ended. Because back in the old days, so-called Waikīkī was an island. You go, water this side, water to water, water. And if you ever check that big wall, that big wide wall, I think there's still pipes coming in there.
- IH: Now days, all the kids boogie board over there by the wall.
- AL: Oh, that's, yeah, that's strictly [for boogie boards].
- IH: Did you folks used to surf there?
- AL: No. As I say, the boards were so heavy that you only (chuckles) surfed where you lived.
- IH: Oh, yeah. That's true. And then, you mentioned that you'd learned how to surf next to the Moana Pier.
- AL: Moana Pier . . .
- IH: And then, they tore it down shortly after that, didn't they?
- AL: They tore it down in 1933 [1930], I think. That's where I learned to surf. That's where, as I say, I was only allowed. The kids had to stay by the pier.
- IH: What was that like when they tore it down? That was sort of a landmark, wasn't it, for everybody?
- AL: Oh, yeah. Yeah, everybody used to go on that pier. Ah, was just getting old, I guess. I guess the guys Downtown wanted to get rid of it. Just politics. It's sad it's gone.
- IH: Is that where they used to go out and have. . . . Was there a little sitting place at the end . . .
- AL: Yeah, right.



IH: . . . where they used to play music?

AL: Yeah, right, right.

IH: Yeah, was it the beach boys that played music there?

AL: Yeah. Back in the old days.

IH: Did you ever attend those?

AL: Yeah. I was just a kid, though, a young kid. Used to walk out there all the time. I remember a man and his wife that came every year. They used to fly kites from that pier. Big kites. I mean, big ones. They were about six or eight feet tall, big like that. That was their joy.

Guys used to go outside there and fish off the pier. Go spear fish underneath the (chuckles) pier. Back in those days, there was surf there all the time. When the pier went, the surf sort of went, you know. It's strange. I don't know.

IH: You were down at the beach most of the time during that beach reclamation and all of that, weren't you? When they started changing the beach, bringing in sand?

AL: No.

IH: And all of that? Do you remember any of that?

AL: Back when I was around there, prior to 1955, you know the wall, the Royal Hawaiian Hotel? See, they built their---(AL draws diagram in sand) this is the wall. Okay. The wall was supposed to be over here (closer to the water), but they built it back here because there was hardly any beach over here. So they put the wall back so their guests can use the beach. And certain times of the year when there was high, high tides, the waves would go right against all this wall over here and go right up.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

IH: But the water doesn't come up that high anymore, does it?

AL: They filled it up with sand. In fact, down in this corner over here, six months of the year, there was no sand over here. No sand at all.

IH: That's the 'Ewa side?

AL: You know that wall that goes out?

IH: Is that the 'Ewa side of [the Royal Hawaiian Hotel]?

AL: Yeah. You know that wall that goes out? No more sand over here,

nothing. The wave used to just hit the wall. Here, I show you. Over here, come.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: That's why the wall at the Royal Hawaiian was moved back. That's why you go down there, the roped-off area on the beach. That's legally their land.

IH: Did they bring in the sand themselves?

AL: Someday you go up to. . . . What's next to the Royal Hawaiian [Hotel] upstairs? There's a room way upstairs. The Sheraton [Waikiki Hotel]. Okay. You know that room up on the top [the Hanohano Room]? Someday, you go sit there and you watch the currents. You know where the wall I was speaking about? It hits the wall over here. And there's a wall going down right down to the beach, okay? You go up there and you watch and see for yourself. Here's the wave. It comes over this way (in the 'Ewa direction), hit this wall, and it works this way (going out). You know where I used to talk about the stone wall (located Diamond Head of Kūhiō Beach)? That's where they fill the sand up. They put the sand over here, fill this area, and eventually, it comes down to the beach. They've been filling that area up for about four, five times already. They don't fill this area up (by the Royal Hawaiian Hotel). Your ocean, the currents, wave and everything, eats this all up and it takes it down here. Someday you go upstairs. There's a bar over there. You can have a drink or pop, and you watch. And you can see for yourself. The only way to stop that. . . . You know the wall I was talking about [at Kapahulu Avenue] where the kids ride those boards. You got to put a wall out here (at Paoakalani Avenue) to stop all the sand from moving down.

IH: That would keep the sand from moving down?

AL: You go study it. You can see for yourself. All they have to do is build a wall over here probably fifty yards out.

IH: And why won't they do it?

AL: Waikiki is for the beach lovers, not the surfers. That's the reason. They want the tourists to enjoy the beach. Have you ever gone down there when it's in [tourist] season? You can hardly walk. Now the business is on the beach, and to heck with the surf.

IH: But if they put up that wall.

AL: They put a wall over there, probably this (the sand by the Royal Hawaiian Hotel) would slowly be moving out. They don't want to do that. Someday you go up there and you watch. You just watch when there's--go up there when there's some waves. You can watch how the wave action with the high tide. Where is the tide going.



You'll see it.

IH: So, actually, the sand is moving to where they want it to move?

AL: They didn't plan it that way. They planned it to just build a beach at the stone wall. Then all of a sudden, the sand went. Where did it go? Down here, by the Royal Hawaiian, the other hotel. So they filled more. I bet not one of them has gone up to that hotel at the bar way upstairs and watched it. I bet not one of 'em. They just throw it and they fill sand and they went. They say, "Oh, that's perfect. Put some more sand so it'll go over here." I bet not one of them know why. (Chuckles) You go look and you see. You know why.

Just like I studied the junk that's in here [Hilton Lagoon]. The stuff that stings you.

IH: The jellyfish?

AL: Yeah. Okay, it's brown. It stays on the bottom. They don't float. So I'm wondering over here, how come people swimming get stung? That thing is down on the bottom, six or eight or ten feet, and they're getting stung. How come? Then one day I was down the corner there and I watched one of these. They have five or six or eight black things that stick up like this. (AL motions with his hands.) These things shoot the chemicals in the water. I watched the bubbles going up. There it is. That's how they're getting stung. You do not step on it. It's what they throw in the water. Now, how would you figure? If that thing is down on the bottom, how does that guy get stung? I seen it--why.

IH: Is that a different kind of jellyfish?

AL: It's the type that stays on the bottom.

IH: Is it always here in the lagoon?

AL: Yeah, it comes from the ocean. Everything you have here is out of the ocean. They've got signs all over here. But yeah, I wondered how did these people get stung? You ask the state man who put the signs up in the front there. He don't know. (Chuckles) See, you got to look at things. You got to study. They don't study that. Jellyfish, jellyfish. (Chuckles)

You know, I've never been stung by a jellyfish, the Portuguese man-of-war, nothing. Never been hit by nothing that it affects me. You know the thing that affects me? The hibiscus bush. Silly, yeah?

IH: How does that affect you?

AL: Ho, I start scratching.

IH: Oh, allergic, maybe.

AL: Jellyfish, nothing. When I was in the Mainland, I was told by this guy--I was on this ranch.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: Anyway, in the Mainland, they have this plant. I forget what it was called. And you brush against it, it stings the heck out of you. Guy saying, "You see that bush over there? You stay away from that bush." Me, I walk right through it, nothing. But the hibiscus bush. Silly, yeah? (Laughs) Especially the kind with the crinkly leaves. Not the smooth-leaf one. The crinkly one. That's the one. (Chuckles) Silly. But it's not silly to me. Yeah, every time I brush against one, holy smokes, I start scratching. Jellyfish, nothing.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: Now, you were going to ask me about how come I'm down here.

IH: Ah, not yet. (Laughs) First, I wanted to ask you, you had mentioned that you folks had done some water sports on the Ala Wai [Canal]. Now . . .

AL: The canoe racing, surfboard paddling races were held there.

IH: Then, earlier today, you mentioned about somebody surfing on the Ala Wai?

AL: No, they were skiing. What do you call--pulled by a car on a surfboard.

IH: Did a lot of people do that?

AL: Nah. It was against the law. Because the road was a dirt road and the cops were around, too. So, you had to sneak it.

IH: Oh, so that was on the ma uka side of the Ala Wai that they drove?

AL: No, no. Around this side. Ma kai.

IH: Oh, so Ala Wai Boulevard used to be dirt road?

AL: Dirt road, yeah. Plus there were hardly any trees. Up to a certain point there were no trees. About half of it was blank. That half had the trees.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

IH: Okay. So, then, at that time, was the Ala Wai pretty clean then?

AL: Same. We wouldn't go swim in it.

IH: So nobody ever did any swimming in there?

AL: No. In fact, the only time I was in there [was] on a surfboard. That's all, you know, your arms. But actually swimming--scared to swim.

IH: Why?

AL: You were always told don't swim in there, the water's not good. Stagnant water, eh?

IH: Oh, so it's the same as now, then.

AL: Right. Now, it's still the same, but some guys they fall in. But actually for--you don't see a guy that really goes swimming in there. But canoes go over or something, that's stuck there in the water. They're fast getting out, though.

IH: You attended Waikīkī Elementary also, didn't you?

AL: Waikīkī School, that's all it was called. Waikīkī School.

IH: What grades did it go up to?

AL: Fourth, fifth and sixth grade.

IH: That's when you attended? And where was it located, that time?

AL: [Where] Jefferson School is.

IH: Oh, the same location?

AL: Yeah, I don't know why they switched names. Now, the Waikīkī School is on the corner of Monsarrat [Avenue] and. . . I forget the name of that corner [Le'ahi Avenue]. That's Waikīkī School. Why did they change it? I don't know. The original Waikīkī School was this side. Fourth, fifth and sixth grade.

IH: Did most of your neighbors in Waikīkī attend that school?

AL: Oh, yeah. This guy, Sammy Amalu, used to live around there, too, you know. In fact, even now, I drive through that area, I still see his home, still there, the white house.

IH: Oh, it's still standing?

AL: Still there. It's about the only house left.

IH: Where was that located?

AL: Kūhiō Avenue and. . . Can't think of that. . .

IH: Oh, Lili'uokalani [Avenue]?

AL: Lili'uokalani. Lili'uokalani, Kūhiō, right on the corner. Sometime, you drive by there. You see this little white house. That's the Amalu house.

IH: Oh, is that where they rent out video equipment or something now?

AL: Yeah. The white house there. All the other buildings are all around it, and there's a little white house.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

IH: Would you say that Amalu house is typical of what most of the Waikīkī houses looked like?

AL: Yeah.

IH: All single-story?

AL: Yeah.

IH: Do you remember any of your teachers at Waikīkī School?

AL: Grote. G-R-O-T-E. The principal was Mabel King.

IH: Other people mention her. She must have been the principal for quite a while.

AL: Yeah. Mabel King, I remember her. Because her son used to hang around the beach.

IH: Oh. What was her son's name?

AL: Oh, I can't tell you what was his first name.

IH: Did they live in Waikīkī?

AL: Mānoa. See, the richer people lived up in that area. Pacific Heights, Nu'uānu, Mānoa. That's back in the old days. That's where the rich people lived. Kāhala now is where the rich people live. But back in the old days, Pacific Heights, I think, was number one for the rich.

IH: What about Waikīkī? They didn't have any well-to-do people in Waikīkī?

AL: No. Not like those people up there. There's a song about that place, Pacific Heights. There's a song. I think you've heard it.

IH: Mm hmm, probably.

AL: Yeah. That was back in the old days. Now, it's all Kāhala. On the water side, now. Across the street, no. The ocean.

IH: Well, you used to live up there, too, huh? Black Point, in that area?

AL: [No.] That is Kaiko'o [Place], Black Point. Right up the road here is Kaio'o [Drive].

IH: Oh, that's over here by Hobron [Lane]?

AL: Hobron, yeah. It's the difference, that K. (Chuckles) That's the rich side [Kaiko'o Place], this the poor side [Kaio'o Drive].

(Laughter)

AL: Yeah, I used to live there [Kaio'o Drive]. Lived there about six years when the rent was seventy-five dollars a month.

IH: That wasn't too long ago, was it? Over here?

AL: In the late '50s, the early '60s.

IH: Was that area already being developed at that time?

AL: That was new in those days.

IH: Oh, it was new.

AL: Yeah. It was all built up. All came up after World War II.

IH: So, did you live in an apartment, then, back there?

AL: Apartment, yeah. The Tradewinds. Magoon Estate got that land [from] Keaweamahi.

IH: Okay. I wanted to ask you about your brothers and sisters. Your sister used to--was . . .

AL: Dance the hula. That's where she got her fame.

IH: Yeah. Winona Love.

AL: Yeah, back in the '20s.

IH: How did she get involved in the hula? Do you remember?

AL: I don't know. She just started to dance when she was a young girl. Royal Hawaiian Hotel. The Biltmore Hotel in the Mainland. She was the first person to dance the hula over there in the Mainland.

IH: Who did she dance for? Who was her instructor?



AL: I don't know. Just learned it back in the old days. My mother, I guess. She was half Hawaiian. Yeah, she went to the Mainland when she was sixteen years old. McKinley [High] School in those days. There was no Roosevelt.

IH: She went with the school?

AL: McKinley, she was there. She was supposed to graduate in 1927. But in that year, she went away to the Mainland. So when she came back, she had to spend another year in school. Nineteen twenty-eight, she had to. Then she danced at the Royal Hawaiian. She was the first. She danced till, oh, right up to World War II. Then she faded out. Got older. Didn't need the money.

IH: Did they used to make good money in those days, the hula dancers?

AL: Nah.

IH: No?

AL: Two, three dollars. Well, was big money. (Laughs) If you go back. One dollar in those days was worth twenty now, I guess. Right? You figure it out. Yeah, that's how she got her fame, the hula.

You know something that it's sad to see go now? The Lei Day. This year was nothing. You don't read about it in the papers or anything. Nothing. The only event they had was at the [Waikīkī] Shell, that's all. Slowly fading away.

IH: What was it like in the old days?

AL: Oh, it was a big deal. It started Downtown at the bank Downtown. Big, you know . . .

IH: Bank of Hawai'i?

AL: Bank of Hawai'i.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: So where were you going to go?

IH: Okay. So we were just talking about your sister Winona. Did she ever dance for the beach boys on the beach, you know, whenever they had casual music?

AL: No, no, no.

IH: Did any hula dancers ever do that?

AL: No. The guys did it.

IH: The guys danced?

AL: Yeah.

(Laughter)

AL: Well, they would shake a little bit or something, but nothing. . . . Back in those days, for a man to do a hula the proper way, everybody think he's a queer if he did it the proper way. But if he did it the other way, okay, that's a man's hula.

IH: What other way?

AL: Oh, not the feminine way. Now, to live, you got to---it's a man's job now. If you want to live, you want to work, you go dance the hula. But back in the old days, you were queer if you did it the right way. Sometimes right now, I think they're kind of queer. (Chuckles) But no, I don't really think that way. But back in the old days, you didn't do it the proper way. That was a girl's sport.

IH: Okay. Then you had two brothers, didn't you? Malcolm was one.

AL: Malcolm, Walter.

IH: And Walter.

AL: They're both retired.

IH: Did they also hang around the beach?

AL: Walter did a little bit. Then he went to work. World War II, he was a fireman. See, back in those days, just like me, if you didn't go to be a fireman or a cop or some kind of construction job towards the war, you went into the army. So I ended up. I didn't want to be a cop. That's one job I'd never do. You got to go argue with people all the time. Would you like that kind of work? No way. The fireman, I would have done. But I found that other job, so I went over there and worked.

IH: And Malcolm never really hung around the beach, either?

AL: No, he never did hang around. The studious one. He went to St. Louis. We went to Roosevelt. After he got through with high school, he went right--he had to work. He was a worker. Yeah. He's retired, too, now. Shell Oil Company, he worked there thirty-five years. More than that. Forty-two years, he worked there. Twenty years old [when he started], he retired when he was sixty-two. In the office part, not the gas station. He was head man. His son is the kid that advertises the tire company, you know? Yeah, that's his son. Me, I still love the beach. I don't care what they did.

IH: How did they feel about you taking the beach as an occupation?

AL: They hated it. My sister . . .

IH: But weren't the beach boys well respected in those days?

AL: Yeah, but she wanted me to---they wanted me to go outside and work. In fact, my sister, back in 1950, she and [Francis] Brown had this ranch in the Mainland. They asked me to go on this ranch to work. I went there for two and a half years.

IH: Oh, that's why you went to Carmel, [California]?

AL: Yeah. I was working up in the mountains. I liked it for a little while, but I'm not a cowboy. I ride horse and everything.

IH: Was that the first time you went to live on the Mainland?

AL: First time. I stayed there for two and a half years. And every six or nine months when I had enough money, I fly home for the weekend or a week and I go back.

IH: How did you like it up there?

AL: I liked it but not that much. I like the Mainland to go look but not to live. Yeah, you ought to see this one time on the ranch. See, I didn't know anything about sheep. I knew everything about horses and cows, etc., and so on. But sheep, I didn't know. So Brown got these sheep. The ewes. You know, the girl sheeps. There was one ram.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: I didn't know anything about sheep, huh? And I didn't know about the rams. The girl sheep, the ewes are the girls. I didn't know anything about that the ram has the group of ewes. That's like his girlfriends, his wives.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: Anyway, I didn't know anything about sheep, about the ram and the ewes. They're girlfriends, see, the ram's girlfriends. So, one day, I went into the pen and I started to pet the ewes. They're very friendly, you know. Pet them. All of a sudden, you know what happened to me? I got rammed. Then I found out you're not supposed to do that. When you do that, you keep your eye on the ram. They're jealous. Yeah. (Chuckles) I didn't know that. So if you ever go pet a sheep now, remember, keep your eye on the ram.

(Laughter)

AL: I got it. I went flying. (Laughs)

IH: When you lived on the ranch, were there quite a few people there on the ranch?

AL: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

IH: Was it hard to get used to living in a Mainland situation since you grew up all your life here?

AL: Nah, I didn't mind it. Just missed the beach, that's all. And I used to go to San Francisco. I used to go on the weekends to San Francisco. Yeah, every Saturday, I'd get a truck or a car, anything that would go up 200 miles. Spend a weekend, come back.

IH: Were there a lot of Hawaiians up there at the time? Local people?

AL: No. No more. Not where I was.

IH: In San Francisco, I'm talking about.

AL: San Francisco, yeah. Hey, I used to know that town well. I mean, anytime one of my friends was in there, I was the tour guide like. Now, I don't know it. I guess it's still the same, but it's changed. Yeah, that was my . . .

IH: Yeah, I heard the beach boys enjoyed going to San Francisco.

AL: San Francisco, yeah. To me, that's a good city. I mean, by that, it's compact. It's like this, like this. (AL holds his hands close together to represent a compact area.) To Los Angeles, that, to me, is the worst city in the whole Mainland. Spread out. If you don't have a friend there, forget it. Don't go. 'Cause I hear now it's worse now. The cab drivers are terrible. In other words, you want to go from here to here, they go over here. (AL motions around.) You know, that stuff. And the bus service is very bad there, too. We have good bus service. The best in the world, I bet. You can't beat it. Now, that's enough of the rams. Remember rams.

IH: (Laughs) Okay.

(Laughter)

IH: When you joined Hui Nalu Club . . .

AL: Ah, you never joined in those days. You were accepted. It's not like you sign something. You just accepted. You either accepted or get lost.

IH: And how did you get accepted?

AL: Stick around there. Got to know all the boys, all the men, you were in. The Outrigger Club, you have to join. But not the Hui Nalu . . .

IH: Why did you leave Hui Nalu to go to the Outrigger?

AL: World War II, as I said. The beach was closed. Barbed wire and everything. The restaurant on the beach was closed. The fountain, the beach fountain was closed. And everybody that I knew at that time was in that club. So that's why I joined it.

IH: The Outrigger?

AL: Somewhere to go. All of a sudden, the old-time beach boys all went to work. They all went their way. You couldn't go down the beach anymore.

IH: So what happened after the war? Did everyone go back to the beach?

AL: No. Ninety-nine percent of 'em never. . . . Well, now, I would say, one-half of the beach boys that used to work on the beach quit. Oh, there's a lot of old-timers who used to work the beach that never came back after the war stopped. They found jobs, huh? They got work . . .

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: Yeah, there's a lot of 'em that. . . . Well, after five years, they sort of gave up.

IH: So when you did go back after the war down to the beach, how had it changed as far as beach services go?

AL: Then I worked for the Outrigger beach service. Back in those days it was called the Waikiki Beach Patrol. See, back prior to around 1930, there was Moana boys (Hui Nalu), that's all. And then, they opened a beach concession at the Outrigger Club, which was next door to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. It was called the Waikiki Beach Patrol. They hired the beach boys from the Moana, some of 'em, to come down there and work. To take care of the guests at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. That's how the guys slowly moved down to where the money was.

IH: That's where the money was, at the Royal?

AL: The Royal Hawaiian Hotel. The richer people stayed at the Royal. The poorer people stayed at the Moana. So, that's why, eventually, all the beach boys came this way, including me. 'Cause the money was there.

IH: So after the war, it was still called the Waikiki Beach Patrol?

AL: Yeah. Till the Outrigger Club left there. That was back in 1960 [1964], I guess.

IH: How had tourism changed after the war? Were you still getting a lot of the rich . . .



AL: No. The class of people changed. Back when I was down there, we never hustled. Like now, these guys have to hustle to make money. We never hustled. Stuck around and waited for the people to ask for us. We had a little more pride, it seems.

IH: Did you have a lot of return customers?

AL: Oh, yeah.

IH: So they would ask for you by name, then?

AL: Oh, yeah. You ought to see, back in the . . . Lana Turner, you know. This is when she was about twenty years old or eighteen years old. She's good-looking girl. Back in those days, where I was (at the Waikiki Beach Patrol), there was a list of names. Anyway, I was the second on the list. Whenever anybody came to the office to ask for a lesson, they go by that, see. Whoever's on top of the list. I was second on the list. Oh, it broke my heart.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

IH: . . . Harry Robello was first on the list?

AL: Yeah, he was first on the list. Goddamn. That was as close as I got to knowing her.

IH: So that's how you got your clients, by being on the list?

AL: Yeah. When they ask at the desk, when they ask at the office. There's this board that they went by.

IH: Did you used to go down, meet the ships, too, in . . .

AL: Oh, that was a big thing. Oh, yeah. Every time it went away, that was the thing in the old days. Go party. Then Hawaiian Town after that.

IH: Hawaiian Town was the nightclub located on Kapi'olani [Boulevard]?

AL: Pan American Building. You know, the Pan American Building? Across the street, the bank there? Right there. That's back in those days, the dirt road going through there. That was dirt road. Yeah. And even after the ships were pau, we used to go down to the airport, the old airport, the one on this side. You know that Lagoon Drive or whatever you call it? That's the road we took. We used to go all the time, too. Sure. I made about six trips by going down there. These people go downstairs, buy a ticket, I'm on my way to the Mainland. I made six, seven, eight trips like that.

IH: Huh? So you would just . . .

AL: Went to see 'em off.

IH: Oh, went to see 'em off and they just bought you a plane ticket right there?

AL: Yeah.

IH: Oh--so what places did you go to?

AL: Los Angeles, San Francisco.

IH: And who were some of these people that bought you tickets?

AL: Ah, guy, Gene Bryant, he's the one that bought me about three of 'em. Got so when I went down there, I be sure I had the right clothes on.

(Laughter)

IH: Did that happen quite a bit?

AL: Yeah, before . . .

IH: The regular customers treating the beach boys to the Mainland?

AL: Oh, yeah. "Panama" used to go, too. ["Chick"] Daniels. We used to know this rich guy, me and "Chick," very rich man back in the '60s. For eight years in a row, World Series. All four, five, six, or seven games, all of 'em. West Coast, East Coast, all over.

IH: And he'd treat you and "Chick"? Wow.

AL: And every time we'd go, he would buy us clothes. (Chuckles) Got so every time we went, we'd go empty-handed. Really. Come back with plenty clothes. (Laughs)

IH: So you folks really got to be good friends with these customers then, huh?

AL: Oh, yeah. He came from a rich family. Well, this is how rich he was--his family was. His mother owned one-sixth of Schlitz beer. Back in the old days, that was a family deal. So that's enough money, eh? Yeah, we went New York, Boston, St. Louis, Missouri, Baltimore, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles. Where else?

IH: Gee, that's terrific.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: Going back to the airport, now. I don't care how good a friend you are, I won't go down there.

IH: Now? Why?

AL: I hate it. Do you like to go down there?

IH: Well . . .

AL: Do you really like to go down there?

IH: Not really. The parking is kind of difficult.

AL: Parking is bad. Rat race. Ever since they moved, I don't go down there. Got to be a close, close, close friend. But not to just go down there for fun or, you know, to go have a drink and watch the airplanes come and go.

IH: Oh, you folks used to do that with the old airport?

AL: You know, the bartender [at Tahitian Lanai Restaurant], what's his name, he used to work down there.

IH: Danny?

AL: Danny used to work downstairs. There was a bar downstairs.

IH: Oh, yeah?

AL: Yeah, that's where I first met that guy. Yeah, that's Spencecliff [Corporation].

IH: That was Spencecliff down there? At the airport?

AL: Yeah.

IH: Oh, I didn't realize that.

AL: You know how Spencecliff started. Swanky Franky [hot dog stand]. I've known Spence and Cliff [Weaver] since about 1939. Nineteen thirty-eight, '39. Two rich boys from the East Coast came to Honolulu, loved Honolulu, they didn't want to go back. So they wanted to go into the business, some kind of business. So they went into the hot dog business. That's how it all started.

IH: Oh, so they had money.

AL: They had money.

IH: The story I heard was that they didn't have money. They made their money at Swanky Franky.

AL: No, no. Back in the old days, to come from the East Coast to come to Honolulu, you have to catch the train to go from East to West. Then you have to catch the boat to come to Honolulu. And that's about three weeks gone already. And to lie around the beach, you got to be rich. Only the rich came here. They were two rich--and I heard that . . .

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

IH: Okay, you know when you came back from the Mainland from Carmel in 1952, had Waikīkī changed much in those two years that you were gone?

AL: No.

IH: And then, you went right back to work on the beach?

AL: Yeah. I went back.

IH: Is that when you met . . .

AL: Henry J. Kaiser. Yeah.

IH: . . . Henry Kaiser. How did that happen?

AL: Well, one of those things on the board. List. They look for a boy. The canoe ride first. And I happened to be the captain. They had a lot of friends around there at that time. His son was around, too. Plus the son's son. Edgar Kaiser.

IH: That's the grandson?

AL: That's his son.

IH: Oh, that's his son.

AL: Edgar. Then the wife liked to ski, water ski. So they asked me, did I know how to operate a speedboat? I said, "Yeah, sure, I operate." Then I used to meet 'em down the lagoon down there.

IH: Ke'ehi Lagoon?

AL: Yeah, that's where we used to go. I had to bring the boat down there and meet 'em down there, bring down a picnic deal. Al Apaka was around in those days. That was the kind of work I did for them. Over the beach there.

IH: So whenever he came down here, he would ask for you?

AL: Oh, yeah. Then they started to buy the land over here [now the site of the Hilton Hawaiian Village]. Then they didn't have anybody to watch the beach over here. So that's where--not Mr. Kaiser, (Edgar) Kaiser, asked me to come there. It's his son the one who came down the beach and spoke to me down there.

IH: When he bought this property, did he buy it from the Paoas?

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

IH: Did he buy it from Paoas? Did they still own this property?

AL: Paoa is [where] the Waikikian [Hotel is now].

IH: Oh, he didn't own this property over here?

AL: No.

IH: Oh, okay.

AL: Paoa, the Waikikian. The Waikikian where the buildings are, not the beach part. Not where the restaurant is. That used to be owned by someone else [i.e., the John 'Ena Estate].

IH: So who owned . . .

AL: There were all homes in here.

IH: Oh, so was all different owners?

AL: All different owners.

IH: Oh, so he just bought everybody out? Kaiser?

AL: Bought everybody. I mean, the property was worth \$2,000, house and lot. Big money, you know. He give you a little more. So you jumped at it, hey, you know what I mean? Yeah, he bought it all out, except there was one lawyer. I can't think of his name. See that building over there with the twin towers? You see that building [on the Diamond Head side of the property, next to Fort DeRussy] with the twin towers?

IH: Uh huh, that's part of the Hilton, isn't it?

AL: Yeah, that's all Hilton. Okay. This is Kālia Road. Okay. Now, this is that building I'm talking about. There used to be a road that came down like this [from Kalia Road] and went that way [towards the ocean]. Okay. You own a house on this road, all these houses, you own a piece of that road. There was one lawyer, (chuckles) I remember this so well. There was one lawyer over here that owned a lot over here. And that lawyer would not sell to (chuckles) Henry J. Kaiser. He had to leave that road open for years.

IH: Oh, yeah? Just because that guy wouldn't sell?

AL: Yeah. Because he owned a part of that road. And for some reason, this lawyer hated, (chuckles) he hated Henry J. Kaiser. He wouldn't sell.

IH: What was the name of that road, did you know?

AL: Oh, I can't think of it now. I knew the name. But then, when Henry J. Kaiser sold to Hilton, within six months it was sold. I don't know why. That guy had something against (laughs) Henry J. Crazy, yeah? And he offered him a good price, too. But the guy was smart. I think he wanted the square foot of all this roadway



plus his little land, which the guy could ask. You know what I mean? He wanted the whole---you know, he was smart. All the square foot of that whole road there. (Laughs)

IH: So they came down the beach, looking for you, then, when they were . . .

AL: Edgar Kaiser did. He was the one that came down.

IH: And so, then you took over running the beach in front of the Hawaiian Village?

AL: I used to run the pier out there.

IH: What did they have on the pier?

AL: Water skiing. There I was going back to water skiing. I stayed around there for a year. I wanted the beach. Then I got the beach.

IH: That was regular beach service? Renting . . .

AL: No, I used to work for the hotel.

IH: Right. But I mean, you . . .

AL: Just got paid by the hotel. In those days, like here, there's free towels, free chairs, free umbrellas, free straw mats, everything was first-class.

IH: What type of customers did they have when they first opened?

AL: Oh, lot of the good people came.

IH: When did they open? [Nineteen] fifty-six? About then?

AL: He opened as a hotel business . . .

(IH adjusts microphone.)

AL: He opened in November of 1955 before the buildings (were all completed). In fact, I used to stay on the property for about three months. Beach front. I had a room upstairs, everything. It lasted three months, then I had to get out because they were going to get the building down. But I enjoyed three months without paying rent.

IH: So what building was that, then, that you stayed in?

AL: The Garden Bar. You know where the Garden Bar is? There was a building there.

IH: Was that the Niumalu?

AL: No. That's part of it. The Niumalu Hotel stretched from the water all the way to the road. Yeah, the Niumalu Hotel . . .

IH: Was it separate bungalows like?

AL: Yeah, the bungalow type.

IH: So you stayed in one of those, then?

AL: Yeah. Heck, I was supposed to pay rent. I forget how much. Pay rent, but they were so mixed up over there. I don't know who to give the money to and I wasn't going to ask. Nobody asked me. But at the start, they said the rent will be that. "Well, who do I pay?"

"I don't know."

So at the end, I never asked. I just moved out and that was all. They were all confused.

IH: So how long did you stay there?

AL: Three months.

IH: No, I mean, on the beach at the Hawaiian Village?

AL: Oh, sixteen years.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: No, altogether, I was there for seventeen years. From '56 to '73.

IH: And why did you leave there?

AL: I got fired.

IH: Why?

AL: By my so-called friend. The story about your friends are your worst enemies. My so-called friend, I got him the job there. He ran the boats over there. That son-of-a-gun. See, the beach was run by me. Beach and pools were run by me and he ran the boats out there. You know, at the pier? But then the hotel [Hilton Hawaiian Village] wanted to only talk to one guy. So they picked him, okay? You know, when anything happened on the beach or whatever, they only wanted to talk to one, not two people. Okay. So they picked him. So the son-of-a-gun, here I was coming to work every morning at half past six in the morning. Work till half past three in the afternoon. Son-of-a-gun, he told the manager at that time, I wasn't doing my job right. Okay. So he got the manager to say it's okay that he get rid of me. He wanted--it showed up within six months--he wanted me out of there so he would get the beach service. Sure enough. Six months later, he got the beach service.

Eventually, about a year later after he got it, he got fired. That's why you have these concessionaires all over the place. There are three concessionaires at one time. And used to be only me. You see? I'm mad. I'm still mad at him, how it happened. But same time, I'm glad it did happen because I stayed there too long.

IH: Why do you say that?

AL: Ah, I wasn't getting anywhere. And what burned me up more, I was getting paid \$600 a month. Okay? But I made tips. That's how I made my money. The guy that took my place made \$1,000 a month. (Laughs)

IH: So that's when you moved here?

AL: That's when I moved here.

IH: You think it was a good move?

AL: Oh, yeah. And then, wait, you want to see something? That SOB, I tell you . . .

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: He wanted to get rid of me altogether away from this area. See, my so-called friend. So I came over here to work, to open the beach concession over here. (AL gives IH a letter to read.) So he got the manager of the Hilton to write this letter to this man at the Waikikian and you read the letter.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: So I went to see this guy, my schoolmate. I showed him this letter.

IH: And he was head of [Department of] Land and Natural Resources?

AL: Yeah. And he says, "Hey, you tell Fred Dailey [then owner of the Waikikian Hotel] that I said you work on the beach. Forget this letter." You see, the Hilton, I tell you, this manager, I felt sorry for him. This guy at that time was new. He didn't know the rules. See, this lagoon is state property, but . . .

IH: I thought it was built by the Hilton.

AL: Wait, wait. It's state property built by Henry J. Kaiser. See, back in those days, Henry J. Kaiser was big. And in those days . . .

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

AL: Anyway, the state, before Hawai'i became a state, they were afraid

of Mr. Kaiser because he had power in the Mainland, right? So anything Mr. Kaiser wanted to do, they let him do it. He built this whole place up, the beach and everything. There was no beaches here, nothing. They let him go. But after he got through, they told Mr. Kaiser, "This is now state property. You maintain." You ever watch. See that pumphouse over there? You know who gets the bill paid for that? Hilton. You know who cleans this pond up? Hilton. Sometime, you walk down the beach over there. Guys that clean the beaches in front, there is a man you see all the time cleaning beaches. Who pays him? Hilton.

IH: Oh, that's state beaches?

AL: State beach. So this manager that you read the letter, didn't know that. I knew that.

IH: So, actually, he had no right to tell you that you couldn't have a concession.

AL: He had no right. But I knew that. So I went to see my schoolmate. He says, "Yeah, forget it. You work if you want to. We're the ones that tell you to get out, not them." It broke their heart.

(Laughter)

AL: I'm telling you.

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 13-87-2-86; SIDE ONE

AL: (I was talking to a guy) that born and raised here. And raised right in this area. He was talking about the old days, back in 1900. This land over here where the Niumalu [Hotel] was--you see, you and I are sitting right here. (AL draws diagram in sand.) This is the pond. He says back in the old days, there was a judge that used to own this land over here [on the Diamond Head side of the lagoon]. And if you ever study the contour, even of this map here, (AL shows area map) the land used to go like this (curve in more). This used to be the water. See here? And he was an old-time judge.

IH: Would that be Judge Heen?

AL: No. This, way back. The judge filled this land up. Why is it in a straight line? In other words, it supposed to be like this. You see what I mean? Not square out.

IH: Uh huh. So he put in all . . .

AL: He put in this. He filled in this land.

IH: Why'd he do that?

AL: And claimed it his. Back in the old days, there used to be a pier that went from here out here.

IH: Mm hmm, Pierpoint?

AL: No, a pier from there out there.

IH: I think, isn't that the one they called "Pierpoint?"

AL: No. Back in the old days. But this judge, nobody would speak against the judge. Let him go. You study Waikiki from here down to the (Fort DeRussy) Park. Ninety-seven percent of it is manmade. Before, no more sand over here (in front of the lagoon). No more sand over here (in front of the Hilton). And the Fort [DeRussy], you know, the fort? No more sand over there. No more. The only beach was that one over there. Used to be a beach right there.

IH: Oh, right by the Hilton Lagoon [Apartments]?

AL: Right over there. See where that guy is walking? Watch. You see where that guy is walking? There used to be a beach there, a regular beach.

IH: And that was the only beach in the area?

AL: And then, a wall. And a wall. You know somebody did that wall. This old-time judge.

IH: Who was telling you this? You said, an old-time resident from over here?

AL: Old-timer. Yeah, old-timer was explaining to me, the old days.

IH: What's his name?

AL: Paoa. One of the . . .

IH: Oh, was a Paoa?

AL: Yeah. Malcolm was his first name. Malcolm Paoa. Cassidy was his last name. Judge.

IH: Oh, the judge?

AL: Yeah. I finally think of his name. Judge Cassidy. Way back in 1900. What're you going to say about the judge? Let him go. Just like Henry J. Kaiser, they let him go.

(Laughter)

IH: Okay. I think you told me you got married in 1963?



AL: Yeah.

IH: So, you were already, what, forty-four years old?

AL: Forty-four.

IH: Why did you wait so long to get married?

AL: I was having too much fun. Oh, what kind of question--you.  
(Chuckles)

IH: No, it seems to me that most of the beach boys got married kind of late.

AL: They were having too much fun. That's the real reason they never settled down. Going out all the time.

IH: Okay, one last question. What do you think of Waikīkī today, the way it's been built up?

AL: It's sad about the surf. Well, the only reason why, that's where I was raised in Waikīkī.

IH: So you think the surf has been ruined?

AL: Ruined. As I say, the hotels don't care. They want room for the tourists. Beach. They want sand, not surf. That's sad. But it's all gone.

IH: But they still get . . .

AL: The canoes are not the same . . .

IH: . . . summer surf?

AL: Yeah, but the surf is not the same. In other words, with surf, let's say the waves break here, and break here, and break there. Okay. The canoe. . . See, that area is known for the canoeing. That's the only place in the world that canoeing is done. You don't hear of any other spot in the world. I don't care where you go in this world. But slowly, that's going out, too. Because before, it used to be, one surf used to break here.

(IH adjusts microphone.)

AL: Okay. Breakers here. The first break was out here. And your surf used to break over here (further down the beach). Okay. That was it. Okay. The canoes used to, when you paddled out, you went out to here and on to this surf when it's small surf. You caught the wave in here and you rode in. Or when there's big waves, you went out to this point (further out). And you came through here and through here. This is the quiet place. See, strong breakers here, strong breakers here. But not so strong right in between. So

that's where we paddled, which was the safe way of doing it. Now, this breaks right across like this. Right across here.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AL: Anyway, the surf now breaks all the way across. And these guys have to go all the way around--the Royal Hawaiian, you know, at the Royal Hawaiian?--on this side [Ewa] of the Royal Hawaiian, to get out. And it's just getting worse because too much sand has gotten out there. In other words, your surf is made by the contour of your ocean floor. Say, if you want to know why the wave only breaking over here. Okay, there's a swell way out there. It comes over here. This is the shallow part. Whenever your swell hits a shallow, that's where it breaks. Okay. Used to be the shallow was here. You know, where I was talking about? And the shallow was here. It'd break. This was deeper water and the shallow was here, so it'd break over here. And as you went in, see, your contour of your ocean floor. That's why, everywhere you see a wave break, you know is the shallow water. Because your big swell comes in, this is the shallow. It comes in, chunk, it breaks. This is deep. It won't break in the deep. It's a swell. And when it hits the shallow, boom, it starts to break.

IH: So, now, it's shallow all the way?

AL: Yeah, it's shallow, too shallow. It breaks all over. Judge by the contour of your ocean floor. Now, by breaking all over. You can't really. . . . That's the modern way of surfing, they ride the break. The way I learned to surf, you don't ride the break, you stay away from it. You go as fast as you can to get away from the break. Now they don't do that. They stay in the break and do all their things. Different. I don't know what thrill they get out of it, but that's their thrill. We used to race to stay away from the break. Go from, say, this point, catch the wave. This is the break here. You catch the wave on the side and as you come in, you stay away from this break. You riding over here. Now days, no, they stay in here, and then they come to this break and they stay in here.

IH: So you folks ride the swells more than the breaks.

AL: The swells. Get the speed out of the board. Now, it's not done for speed. We go for speed. Maybe we were wrong, I don't know. (Chuckles)

IH: Okay. That's all the questions I have unless you want to add anything else.

AL: No, that's it.

IH: Okay.

AL: You want to know--'cause that's how, surf. That's what it's

ruined.

END OF INTERVIEW

# **WAIKĪKĪ, 1900 - 1985: ORAL HISTORIES**

## **Volume I**

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